

Congress
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Report
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**RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY CONCERNING TERRORIST
BOMBINGS IN BEIRUT, LEBANON**

June 12, 1985.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. Hamilton, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,
submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT

[To accompany H. Res. 171]

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 171) requesting the President to provide certain information to the House of Representatives concerning covert training of counterterrorist units to act against anti-American terrorists in Lebanon or other parts of the Middle East, having considered the same, report unfavorably thereon and recommend that the resolution do not pass.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On May 14, 1985, House Resolution 171 was introduced by the Honorable Don Edwards and referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The resolution requests the President to furnish to the House all documents and factual information in his possession which relate to covert training or other support, from January 1, 1984 to May 15, 1985, of counterterrorist units (including any Lebanese intelligence personnel) to engage in action against anti-American terrorists in Lebanon or other parts of the Middle East.

Introduction of the resolution followed press allegations that the CIA had been authorized to train and support counterterrorist units of foreigners for strikes against suspected terrorists before they could attack U.S. facilities in the Middle East. Immediately after the introduction of the resolution, the committee began to interview intelligence officials and review pertinent intelligence documents. The purpose of this review was to determine whether or not any evidence existed to support the charge that the United States Government, and specifically the Central Intelligence Agency, knew about beforehand, or was in some way responsible for, a March 8, 1985 bombing incident in Beirut, Lebanon that caused the loss of at least 80 lives and 100 other casualties.

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On June 12, the committee met in closed session to consider the resolution. After a discussion of the information derived from its review, the committee ordered the resolution reported adversely.

BACKGROUND

The committee's understanding of the concern which underlies the introduction of House Resolution 171 is that U.S. counterterrorism policy not stoop to the tactics of terrorism in seeking to prevent it. The issue posed by the resolution of inquiry is a serious one. It relates to the U.S. policy in countering terrorism, about which there is as yet no clear national consensus.

The committee's review has uncovered no evidence that any U.S. intelligence agency - any U.S. Government agency - has encouraged or participated in any terrorist activity in Lebanon. Further, the committee was able to discover no evidence that any U.S. intelligence agency had foreknowledge of the March 8 bombing outside the residence of Sheik Hussein Fadlallah.

Without addressing the specifics of the allegations raised in connection with this deplorable terrorist event, the committee states that its review of relevant documents and files and its interview of appropriate government officials leads to the conclusion that no U.S. Government complicity, direct or indirect, can be established with respect to the March 8 bombing in Beirut.

COMMITTEE POSITION

On June 12, 1985, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a quorum being present, ordered the resolution reported adversely by voice vote.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to clause 2(1)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the House of Representatives, the committee's findings and recommendations concerning House Resolution 171 are contained in the body of this report.

FISCAL YEAR COST PROJECTIONS

With respect to clause 2(1)(3)(B) of rule XI of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this resolution does not provide new budget authority or tax expenditures.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

With respect to clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, the committee has received no report from the Congressional Budget Office.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

With respect to clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, the committee has not received a report from the Committee on Government Operations pertaining to the subject of this resolution.